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Nancy Reagan, And Conduct Becoming The Code of the New First Family

By Donnie Radcliffe

Nancy Reagan says Americans concerned about the decline in moral values, in the family unit, in parental guidance and in television and movie standards have company.

Her.

She also says that she has company.

Him.

Talking about it in an interview yesterday, she avoided the pronoun "we" but it was clear that her feelings were also his and that they intend to set an example for what she calls "a return to a higher sense of morality" when they move into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

"I think that might be accomplished by what you say, how you conduct yourself, and the tone you set. It kind of filters down from the top somehow," she said.

She talked in the tiny third-floor sitting room off the master bedroom of the government-run guest house at 716 Jackson Place, where she and Ronald Reagan are staying this week. The phone never stopped ringing—"Do you suppose anybody will answer that?" she wondered at one point and when nobody did, picked it up herself to find the Secret Service had dialed the wrong number. And the elevator wasn't working either.

In the dining room, on the floor below, President-elect Ronald Reagan and Vice President-elect George Bush sat around the table with a group that included CIA Director Stansfield Turner. And on the first floor, where Reagan aides came and went, so did a messenger bearing a gift of jelly beans—reportedly Reagan's favorite candy—from Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.).

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